

**DRAFT**

Sullivan County NH

Type of Meeting:

Sullivan County Executive Finance Committee

Date / Time:

October 2, 2007 / 10:00 am

Place:

Commissioner's Conference Room, Newport

Participants

Representatives: Brenda Ferland (Chair), Ellen Nielsen (Clerk), John Cloutier, Larry Converse, Tom Donovan, Peter Franklin, Ray Gagnon, Sue Gottling and Beverly Rodeschin

Commissioners: Ethel Jarvis Other Elected Officials: Sharron King, Registrar of Deeds

County Employees: Ed Gil de Rubio, County Manager

Jeff Graham: Certified Public Accountant

The meeting was called to order at 10:00. Expense and Revenue Summaries for July and August were passed out to the participants, along with financial statements from the auditors. Mr. Gil de Rubio announced that the Commissioners would meet at 7:00 pm this evening [10/2].

Mr. Gil de Rubio and Mr. Gram delivered a report on the financial situation of the county, based on the auditors' reports, Mr. Graham's interpretation of those reports, and additional information about the financial transactions of the county during the first quarter of fiscal 2008. Mr. Graham stated that the county administration needed direction from the commissioners about how to handle the deficit, and more specifically, how to repay the 2.5 million dollars borrowed at the end of fiscal 2007.

Mr. Gil de Rubio stated that the biggest financial issue facing the county is the shortfall in revue from the operation of the nursing home. The census is low, and it has been necessary to use a great deal of agency nursing—for example, between \$90,000 and \$100,000 was spent for this item in September. He said that the nursing home had been in a state of "chaos" in June and July but things are improving now. He noted many steps, which could be taken to improve the situation:

- Although a Director of Nursing has been hired, the county has not yet hired a new administrator for the nursing home—this position should be filled soon.
- Some key personnel have left and must be replaced, and more nurses must be hired.
- It is important to work on a "culture change" at the nursing home and also on better relations with the union.

On a brighter note, the county soon will receive a \$118,000 Pro-Share reimbursement.

The representatives, along with Mr. Gil de Rubio and Mr. Graham, continued to discuss the financial problems created by the shortfall in nursing home revenue and how these problems might be avoided in the future. Several people expressed concern about unrealistic high estimates of the nursing home census and in particular, the Medicare census. The discussion shifted to a broader philosophical discussion of a for-profit nursing homes versus tax-supported nursing homes which are not expected to make money. Several representatives requested more detailed financial information and were told by Mr. Gil de Rubio that they would receive it.

*Rep. Gottling moved that the Chair, Rep. Ferland, schedule another meeting of the EFC for November. The motion was seconded by Rep. Converse and passed by a voice vote.*

*Rep Cloutier moved that the meeting be adjourned and Rep. Donovan seconded the motion, which passed by a voice vote.*

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Nielsen, Clerk